

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A clamping device (1) for telescoping tubes (3, 5), comprising:

a threaded part (7) comprising a threaded rod (11) configured for attachment to an inner tube (3) of a set of telescoping tubes (3, 5),

the threaded rod (11) comprising two threaded sections (13, 15),

a first of the two threaded sections (13) having a greater diameter than a second of the two threaded sections (15),

the two threaded sections having opposing threads,

a radially expandable clamping part (21) which is a hollow cylinder and which has a continuous lengthwise slot (25),

two conical expansion bodies (17, 19) located at respective ones of two opposite ends of the clamping part (21), wherein,

the two expansion bodies (17, 19) are adjustable relative to the clamping part (21),

the expansion bodies (17, 19) are each threaded onto a different one of the threaded sections (13, 15) of the threaded rod (11), and

in use, the expansion bodies (17, 19) by direct contact engage a circumferentially uninterrupted interior surface of an outer tube (5) of the set of telescoping tubes (3, 5), turning the inner tube (3) relative to the outer tube (5) causes the expansion bodies (17, 19) to move along the respective one of the different threaded sections to each approach the other to widen the clamping part (21) radially, over a length of the clamping part (21), ~~wherein a~~ the first threaded section (13) ~~which,~~ in use ~~[[,]]~~ is adjacent to the inner tube (3) ~~has a greater diameter than a~~ and the second threaded section (15) ~~which,~~ in use ~~[[,]]~~ is remote from the inner tube (3).

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) The clamping device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the hollow cylinder which forms the clamping part (21) has recesses (23) which proceed from its two ends.

16. (canceled).

17. (previously presented) The clamping device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the recesses (23) are offset by 90 degrees to one another on the ends of the hollow cylinder.

18. (previously presented) The clamping device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the expansion bodies (17, 19) with their ends of smaller diameter engage the clamping part (21).

19. (previously presented) The clamping device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the expansion bodies (17, 19) on their ends with the greater diameter are made to increase friction relative to the material of the outer tube (5).

20-21. (cancelled).

22. (previously presented) In combination, the clamping device of claim 13 and the set of telescoping tubes (3, 5) connected to the clamping device, wherein the first threaded section (13) which has the greater diameter is attached to the inner tube (3) of the set of telescoping tubes (3, 5).

23. (previously presented) A clamping device in combination with an inner tube (3) and an outer tube (5), the combination comprising:

an inner tube (3);

an outer tube (5);

a threaded part (7) inserted into an interior of the tube (3) of a first interior diameter;

a threaded rod (11) projecting from the threaded part (7), and with two threaded sections (13, 15) having opposing threads,

the thread of a first of the two threaded sections (13) having a larger diameter than the opposing threaded thread of a second of the two threaded sections (15);

two conical expansion bodies (17, 19) having internal threads respectively corresponding to the threads of two threaded sections (13, 15),

one expansion body (17, 19) threaded onto each of the two threaded sections;

a radially expandable clamping part (21) located between the two expansion bodies (17, 19) and comprising a cylinder tube with a lengthwise slot (25),

the two expansion bodies (17, 19) having smaller diameter ends engaged with the clamping part (21),

the clamping part (21) being radially expandable under action of the two expansion bodies (17, 19) being brought together,

wherein, greater diameter ends of the two expansion bodies (17, 19) are each dimensioned to frictional engage a circumferentially uninterrupted inner surface of the outer

tube (5) having a second interior diameter greater than the first interior diameter,

moving the inner tube (3) relative to the outer tube (5) causes each of the two expansion bodies (17, 19) to move on the respective threaded sections (13, 15) to approach one another and to widen the clamping part 21 radially.

24. (cancelled).

25. (previously presented) A clamping device in combination with two poles, comprising:

a clamping device (1) within two tubes (3, 5),

the clamping device comprising

a threaded rod (11) with two oppositely threaded sections (13, 15),

the threaded rod having a first end engaged with a first of the two tubes,

two expansion bodies (17, 19) each threaded onto a respective one of the two oppositely threaded sections (13, 15),

the two expansion bodies each engaged with a second of the two tubes,

a slotted, cylindrical clamping part (21), located around the threaded rod and between each of the two expansion bodies (17, 19),

wherein, by relative turning of the two tubes (3, 5) the two expansion bodies (17, 19) each penetrate into the clamping part (21) from two ends of the clamping part (21) to radially widen the clamping part over an entire length of the clamping part.

26. (previously presented) A clamping device in combination with two poles of claim 25, wherein, a thread of a first of the two threaded sections (13) has a larger diameter than an oppositely threaded thread of a second of the two threaded sections (15).